

South Carolina Civil Rights Review of Career and Technical Education Programs
Department of Education

For information: Patrice T. Green, MOA/Gender Equity Coordinator, 917 Rutledge Building 1429 Senate Street, Columbia, SC 29201, phone: 803.734-0070, e-mail: pgreen@ed.sc.us

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the federal civil rights laws, regulations, and guidelines with which CTE programs must comply?

A. School Districts and Multi-District Career Centers (mdccs) that provide CTE programs and also receive funding through United States Education Department (USDE) are responsible for complying with the following:

- Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Vocational Education Program Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination and Denial of Services on the Basis of Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, and Handicap, published in the Federal Register, March 21, 1979
- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Q. Will my CTE program receive an onsite civil rights review, and if so, what will I need to do?

A. School districts/mdccs selected for an onsite civil rights review of CTE programs will be notified at least 30 days in advance. The facilities and documents to be reviewed (prior to visit), as well as an explanation of the onsite process will be provided in a detailed notification letter. The notification will be mailed to the school superintendent and the CTE director and/or coordinator.

Q. What will happen during the review process?

A. The review team will conduct an entrance meeting with the school superintendent, CTE director/coordinator and other staff deemed necessary. We will review CTE programs and facilities to determine programs accessibility, interview staff and students, and conduct an exit meeting to briefly discuss findings. Within 30 – 45 days, a Letter of Findings (LOF) will be mailed to the district superintendent and CTE director and/or coordinator. The district/mdcc will have up to 45 days to respond in a Voluntary Compliance Plan (VCP). We will assist the agency in resolving any violations within a reasonable period of time, in order to finalize the review process. Note: If a multiple district career center is selected for review, the counselors from the feeder schools will be asked questions during the entrance meeting.

Q. What facilities will be reviewed?

A. The team will review CTE instructional programs, as well as areas where students participate in general programs of instruction. The purpose is to assure that CTE programs and activities are accessible to, and usable by, persons with disabilities, and that equal educational opportunity is provided. The review may include libraries, cafeterias, resources rooms, counseling and administrative offices, lavatories, parking areas, building entrances, hallways, as well as CTE program areas and other areas as determined (academic classrooms may also be reviewed).

Q. How are districts/mdccs selected for onsite reviews?

A. Selections are made according to the DOE's point-based targeting plan. CTE programs receive points based on areas such as but are not limited to:

- Disproportionate enrollment in the areas of gender, race and disability
- Number of schools in the district
- Date of last review